

(5) Now let the ampoule stand for one minute for the serum to clear. The reconstituted serum will become crystal-clear and ready for injection. Froth and undissolved particles, if any, should be left in the ampoule; excess serum has been added to allow for this.

(6) If the pad of handyplast falls on the floor after it has been removed from the cellophane cover it should not be used. Instead, the opening of the ampoule may be closed for shaking with the tip of the thumb painted with tincture of iodine or any other anti-septic carried in your first aid snake-bite kit.

(7) For the second and subsequent injections, you will have more time to dissolve the lyophilised serum. For these add 10 c.c. distilled water to the serum ampoule and rotate it between the palms of your hands until the serum is fully dissolved, and let the ampoule stand for serum to clear.

#### STORAGE.

Liquid serum is very unstable at room temperature. It requires storage at 0°C. to 4°C. Even then it deteriorates and 2 years from the date of manufacture, the serum is unfit for use. In India, proper cold storage facilities are not freely available and therefore liquid serum can only be stored at the risk of very rapid deterioration. Lyophilised serum obviates this difficulty. It is many times more stable than liquid serum. It should retain its potency for 10 years when stored in a cool dark place. Thus anti-snake-venom serum can be made available for use far away from cold storage facilities. It can be safely kept at rural dispensaries and even carried in a haversack on one's back if an occasion demands it. However, it is preferable to store it in a refrigerator if one is available.

EDITORS.

#### 22.—REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF VIZAGAPATAM AND NEIGHBOURING GHATS.

Whilst on a short and hurried trip to the Vizagapatam District in company with Mr. Humayun Abdulali at the latter end of May, 1944, we recorded the following species of lizards and frogs. Mr. Abdulali has already dealt with the avifaunal aspect of the trip and topographical conditions, so I need not refer to this again. (See p. 333 of this volume.)

##### *Hamidactylus maculatus* Smith.

According to the *Fauna*, 2nd ed. (*Reptilia*), this gecko has been so far recorded only from the 'Bombay district, Malabar, Tinnevely, S. India, Salem, near Madras'. We obtained three specimens in the Forest Bungalow at Lamar-singi, 2,700 ft. This is a considerable extension of the range of this species.

##### *Hemidactylus brookei* Gray.

This species was seen in the bungalow at Vizagapatam. *Brookei* has a very wide distribution.